



City of Cambridge Police Department

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Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

May 26, 2009

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: City Council Order No. 11, dated May 11, 2009

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to City Council Order Number 11, dated May 11, 2009 regarding the summer safety plans for the City of Cambridge.

In collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Cambridge Police has developed a strategy whereby both city agencies in concert with Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) have planned to carry a series of events involving five of the city's public housing developments. The strategy is designed to be responsive to each of the neighborhood's needs and concerns relative to issues that have been identified over the last few years. The guiding principle for each of these projects is to provide a variety of services that are designed to promote stronger community-based ties with each of the five selected neighborhoods.

- Washington Elms/Newtown Court: Conducted a door-to-door campaign to explain the various summer programs available through DHS and CHA followed with a community meeting to provide for registration to the summer programs. Officers assigned to the Youth/Family Services Unit and Community Relations Unit will team up with the Youth Workers from the Area IV Youth Center and the Fisoli Center providing summer programs for the youth. At the end of the season, the officers and Youth Workers will go door-to-door again to speak with each of the families to gauge how the summer sessions were received.
- Jefferson Park: Conducted a door-to-door campaign along with members of the Center for Families, Youth Workers and the Vineyard Church Outreach Workers. They met with each of the families and talk about the summer program. Because the shooting incidents had just occurred, officers spoke about the recent incidents and encouraged residents to actively report suspicious activity (using various anonymous methods of communicating with CPD). In addition, we held a community meeting through the North Cambridge Crime Task Force. Provided for a youth summer soccer league to be jointly operated by officers from the

Community Relations Unit and Youth/Family Services Unit. Currently working closely with CHA to structure a tenants' council.

- Walden Square Apartments: Working in collaboration with the management company, the Tenants' Council, community leaders and youth workers. There will be a series of meetings with this group to talk about ways to promote stronger ties with the residents and to provide greater involvement of the youth in the various programs offered by the city. Putting together a door-to-door campaign to accomplish the same objectives as had been done in the aforementioned housing developments, followed by a community meeting to talk about greater community involvement and enrollment of kids into the summer programs being offered at the Gately and West Cambridge Youth Centers.
- Fresh Pond Apartment Complex: Working closely with the management company and the Tenants' Council to encourage involvement in the newly created soccer league and to do a door-to-door campaign, followed by a community meeting.
- Lincoln Way & Corcoran Park: Working closely with CHA and the Youth Workers to conduct a door-to-door campaign. Encourage greater youth involvement in the programs being offered through the two neighborhood youth centers. Work closely with the tenants to structure a tenants' council.

As a member of the Kid's Council of Cambridge and the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth I am always meeting and planning with agencies and citizens on how to adopt services/programs for the youth in the city. I also attended a presentation in NY City with the Cambridge City Council Human Services Committee of the Harlem Children's Zone which Cambridge would like to introduce as a model.

Furthermore, throughout the year the Department has attended neighborhood meetings some include the North Cambridge Task Force, Richdale Neighborhood, Walden Square Community and the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee. At these meetings the Department connects with the community to hear their concerns in order to put a working plan/project in place.

As you are aware, the Department has put in place the Youth/Family Services Unit that works closely with the neighborhood community and has been involved in the entire summer project planning meetings.

If you require additional information please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas", written in a cursive style.

Robert C. Haas